

Specimens, by T. I. Buckley, M. D.; Postmortem Findings After Ureteral Transplantation, by W. W. Cross, M. D.; Case Report of Ureteral Obstruction and Nephrectomy, by J. A. Daugherty, M. D., and Recurrent Adenoma of the Prostate, by A. E. Dart, M. D.

**Conference of Social Work—Health Section Programs.**—The health section of the 24th annual meeting of the California Conference of Social Work to be held in Riverside May 1 to 5, will have many points of interest to the medical delegates. Zdenka Buben, chief medical social worker of the Los Angeles Health Department, is chairman of the section.

Of special interest will be a joint luncheon meeting of the cancer committee of the California Conference and that of the cancer commission of the California Medical Association. Members of the California district of the American Association of Hospital Social Workers will participate.

The subject of the luncheon will be "Social Service as a Factor in the Solution of the Cancer Problem." Dr. Walter M. Dickie, director of the department of public relations of the California Medical Association, will preside and the principal speaker will be Dr. Robert B. Greenough, assistant professor of surgery at Harvard University and chairman of the Cancer Committee of the American College of Surgeons.

## CORRESPONDENCE

**Subject of Following Letter: A Communication From the Secretary-General of the Cuban Medical Federation, Regarding Discussion of Cuban Health Societies in February California and Western Medicine.**

**Editor's Note:** In the February CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, pages 116 and 139, was printed a discussion of "Health Insurance Societies of Cuba—Pseudo State Medicine and With a Vengeance." A copy of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE was sent to the Cuban Medical Federation. A reply has been received from the Secretary-General of that federation. It is here reprinted because it indicates that the statements made in the February CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE are approved by the executive body of the Cuban Medical Federation. The letter of Dr. Felix Hurtado, secretary-general, follows:

Federacion Medica de Cuba

Havana, March 5, 1932.

*To the Editor.*—It gives me exceeding pleasure to acknowledge your cordial letter of February 10 and to express, above all, our appreciation of your friendly attentions.

We have read with delight the text of the article in the February issue of California and Western Medicine, and are glad at this opportunity to congratulate you on your admirable discussion in your editorial of the actual situation in which Cuban physicians and our health insurance societies find themselves, and I am eager to inform you that in the very next issue of our official organ, *La Tribuna Medica*, we will publish your interesting article.

Now with regard to having a delegate of this Federation present at the next congress of the American Medical Association that convenes at New Orleans in May of the present year, permit me to inform you that this project is receiving the study and every consideration of the Executive Committee of our Federation; and I can tell you even now that we shall gladly appoint a member to be present at the aforesaid congress in the capacity of guest or fraternal delegate with the previous consent of Dr. Olin West, with whom you suggest we enter into correspondence touching this particular.

If we did not fear to impose on your generosity too much we should request of you the courtesy of two or three copies of California and Western Medicine of February in which the discussion of our health insurance problems appeared, since quite a number of members of this committee are intensely interested to possess the said issue of your valuable journal.

With affectionate greetings from the Cuban physicians, permit me to sign myself,

Your most obedient and attentive servant,

(Signed) DR. FELIX HURTADO,  
Secretary-General.

**Subject of Following Letter: Misrepresentation by a "Dr." Kennedy**

Medical Department  
California State Prison at San Quentin

March 4, 1932.

*To the Editor.*—Within the past month a man giving the name of Doctor Kennedy has called upon several physicians in the bay counties, representing himself as being a neurologist and as having been one of my assistants at the San Quentin prison. He claimed that he had assumed the responsibility of an abortion to shield another man and that he had served his term in prison.

One doctor in Oakland had financed this man to a day's sojourn in a hospital. A few days ago, apparently the same man, calling himself Doctor Kennedy, caused a disturbance in the editorial rooms of the Sacramento *Bee* in Sacramento, evidencing his disapproval of an editorial written in regard to Dorothy Ellingson, a matricide. It was also reported he threatened Annie Laurie of the San Francisco *Examiner*.

Doctor Kennedy is unknown to me. His actions might lead one to believe he is a psychopath or that he is a drug addict seeking to get in a doctor's office or hospitals for the purpose of getting morphin.

It would be well for any doctor who comes in contact with this man to immediately inform the police so that he might be held for investigation.

L. L. STANLEY,  
Resident Physician.

**Subject of Following Letter: Transmission of Malaria Through Use of a Common Syringe**

*To the Editor.*—For your information, and thinking it might be of interest to you, or for possible mention in your journal, I am sending the attached report relative to six cases of malaria.

Sincerely,

J. C. GEIGER, M. D.,  
Director of Public Health, City and County of  
San Francisco.

### REPORT

March 11, 1932.

The following cases and report should be of decided interest. The investigation was started when the unusual occurrence was reported of six patients at one time in the San Francisco Hospital to determine the source of infection of these cases. The accuracy of the department's investigation is plainly manifest. Nothing like this in my experience has ever occurred before.

1. W., thirty-two years, quartan type. Onset February 1, 1932. A guest of the Hunter House, 675 Howard Street; also the Arcade House, 66 Clay Street, at the time of onset.

2. O., forty-five years, tertian type. Onset February 6, 1932. A guest of the New York House, 753 Howard Street.

3. W., forty-one years, tertian type. On February 1, 1932. Dwelling place unknown.

4. J., forty-two years, tertian type. Onset February 28, 1932. Dwelling place unknown.

5. B., thirty-nine years, tertian type. Onset February 13, 1932. A guest of the Golden Eagle Hotel, 253 Third Street.

Habits of all: Morphin addicts, hypodermic method.

They were all treated at the San Francisco Hospital, where the diagnoses were confirmed by demonstrating living organisms in blood. All recovered and discharged, except J., who died of pneumonia, and who was also a mental case.

In my opinion, either W. (1) or W. (3), whose onsets were the same, infected the others by the common use of the syringe, although they denied this, but I have had this habit corroborated by the clerk of the Hunter House, who says it is a habit to pass the syringe around when they are congregated in a room free from observation. It is obvious that, owing to the character of these men, their statements cannot be believed.

Inspection was made at three of these hotels for evidences of mosquitoes and breeding places without results.

These men were all cautioned about the danger of spreading disease in this manner, and advised to disinfect the syringe subsequent to each injection.